

**JANUARY 2006**  
**NORTHERN COMMAND**

# SAFESTAT REPORT

*Nevada Highway Patrol*  
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## Overview

The Northern Command began the month of January working to clean up the after effects of the New Year's flood. The counties of Washoe, Carson City, Douglas and Lyon were all declared as federal disaster areas eligible for clean up reimbursements. The command spent numerous hours dedicated to flood assistance and is seeking to recuperate some of those unexpected costs.

Despite the initial bad weather, the month overall was relatively quiet. Crash data showed an overall reduction of 12% from last month and 18.4% from last year. Property damage crashes were reduced 6% from last month and 16.2% from last year. Injury crash reductions were even better. The command showed a reduction in injury crashes from 25.3% last month and 24.3% from last year. There was also a reduction in fatality crashes from 3 to 2.

The construction zone projects in the Reno Urban area are beginning to end and significant completion is expected to occur in March. This completion should help to relieve some of the numbers of crashes. The freeway expansion in Carson City is expected to be completed by mid-February. This will change the traffic pattern in Carson City and an increased patrol presence will be dedicated there until drivers become aware of the new transitions.

The traffic enforcement efforts of our troopers and the education of drivers remained strong this month. Total violations cited increased by 13.7% from last month and 32% from last year. The largest increase was in speeding citations. Those citations increased by 32% last year and a very significant 80.7% from last year. This was mostly due to the aggressive enforcement of speeding violations in the construction zones in order to reduce the high number of crashes at those sites. DUI arrests increased by 9.2% from last month and 18.6% from last year.

The Commercial Enforcement Section is also ahead of their federally mandated goals. Of particular note is the 102% increase in hazardous moving violations from last month and a 315% increase from last year. This is a direct result of a program targeting moving violations by commercial vehicles. The section is also continuing an education campaign to reduce the instance of out of service violations by school busses.

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**NORTHERN COMMAND**

## CRASH ANALYSIS AND OVERVIEW

	Jan 2006	Jan 05	% Change	Dec-05	% Change
Total Crashes	427	523	-18.4%	485	-12.0%
Property Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	316	377	-16.2%	336	-6.0%
Injury Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	109	144	-24.3%	146	-25.3%
Fatal Crashes [including commercial vehicles]	2	2	0.0%	3	-33.3%
DUI Crashes [DUI charged]	20	21	-4.8%	18	11.1%
Total persons killed in fatal crashes	2	2	0.0%	4	-50.0%
Total drivers killed without seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	3	-300.0%
Total passengers killed without seatbelts	1	1	0.0%	0	100.0%
Total drivers killed with seatbelts	1	0	100.0%	1	0.0%
Total passengers killed with seatbelts	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total persons killed - seatbelts not applicable	0	1	-100.0%	0	0.0%
Total number of commercial vehicle crashes	18	24	-25.0%	20	-10.0%
Property crashes involving commercial vehicles	10	21	-52.4%	17	-41.2%
Injury crashes involving commercial vehicle	7	3	133.3%	3	133.3%
Fatal crashes involving commercial vehicle	1	0	100.0%	0	100.0%

Percentage of fatal crashes to total crashes 0.5%

Percentage of DUI crashes to total crashes 4.7%

Percentage of persons killed *without* seatbelts to total persons killed 50.0%

Percentage of commercial vehicle crashes to total crashes 4.2%

### CRASH ANALYSIS:

Total crashes decreased by 12% from last month and 18.4% from last year. Property crashes decreased by 6% from last month and 16.2% from last year. Injury crashes were down a significant amount over last month and last year as well, 25.3% and 24.3% respectively. Fatal crashes also dropped by 33% or 1 from last month and remained the same as last year.

Commercial vehicle crashes decreased by 10% as the Commercial Enforcement Section continues to target moving violations committed by these drivers.

## FIELD ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

[Analysis and review of current reporting period, versus same period in previous fiscal year, versus previous reporting period]

	Jan 06		Jan 05	% Change		Dec 05	% Change
DUI arrests from crashes **	20		21	-4.8%		18	11.1%
DUI arrests <i>prior</i> to crashes **	83		70	18.6%		76	9.2%
Other Arrests	431		338	27.5%		341	26.4%
Total persons arrested (DUI included) **	199		166	19.9%		168	18.5%
Speed violations	1973		1092	80.7%		1495	32.0%
Hazardous moving violations	760		736	3.3%		864	-12.0%
Occupant restraint violations *	314		328	-4.3%		311	1.0%
Total violations [above violations included]	5655		4283	32.0%		4973	13.7%
<b>Commercial Enforcement</b>							
Hazardous moving violations - citations/arrests	83		20	315.0%		41	102.4%
Other traffic violations - citations/arrests	80		121	-33.9%		57	40.4%
Total safety inspections [level 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6]	655		257	154.9%		776	-15.6%
Terminal inspections [level 5] CR only	3		4	-25.0%		0	300.0%
Total safety violations -- citation	258		67	285.1%		255	1.2%
Total safety violations -- repair order	1996		537	271.7%		2103	-5.1%
Total vehicles placed "Out of Service"	89		22	304.5%		51	74.5%
Total drivers placed "Out of Service"	67		14	378.6%		38	76.3%
Total school buses inspected	15		13	15.4%		0	1500.0%
Total school buses placed "Out of Service"	1		13	-92.3%		0	100.0%
Total trucks weighed	2299		230	899.6%		145	1485.5%
Total overweight citations	63		5	1160.0%		38	65.8%
Total dyed fuel inspections	441		180	145.0%		341	29.3%
Total dyed fuel citations	0		0	0.0%		1	-100.0%

\* Seat belt and child restraint

\*\* Commercial Enforcement Activity Included

### FIELD ENFORCEMENT:

Although there were two more DUI related crashes this month over last month, that was not a result of a decrease in enforcement. DUI arrests prior to crash also increased by 9.2%. Total persons arrested also increased by 18.5%.

Total violations cited increased by a very strong 13.7% from last month, and an even stronger 32% over last year. Speeding violations increased by 32% and Occupant Restraint violations increased by 1%. The region expects this trend to continue as more troopers return to regular duties.

The Commercial Enforcement Section remains ahead of its goals for the fiscal year as well.

## **RENO URBAN TRAFFIC**

The Reno Urban area experienced some significant gains in enforcement this month coupled with a considerable reduction in crashes. Total crashes were down by more than 20% over last year, and 24% over the previous month. The reductions may be attributed to the overall favorable weather conditions for the month and various construction projects reaching completion.

The Reno Urban Troopers increased their overall activity enforcement activity by more than 32% over the same period last year, and 12% over the previous month. The total number of troopers available for patrol activities was 29. This is the same number as last month but one more than the same period last year.

Day Shift was staffed with 11 troopers and 2 sergeants. Day shift investigated 99 crashes during the month, which remains relatively unchanged from last month and accounted for the majority of the area's crashes. Overall dayshift enforcement activity remained relatively unchanged from the previous month, but increased almost twofold from the same period last year. The significant increase is attributed to severe snowstorms last year, which hampered enforcement activities. Day shift conducted a speed enforcement operation on Pyramid Highway due to a number of citizens' complaints. The operation was an hour and a half and resulted in the issuance of 21 citations.

Swing Shift was staffed with 11 troopers and 2 sergeants. Swing shift experienced a very significant decrease in crashes this month. Swing shift investigated a total of 77 crashes, which is a 46% decrease over last month, and a 36% decrease over the same period last year. This decrease is remarkable and one of the largest decreases experienced in years. Swing shift troopers were able to devote more of their time to enforcement activities, which resulted in 36% increase in overall activity for the month. Swing shift troopers made 1004 traffic stops, which resulted in 1010 total violations written. Swing shift continues to deploy the ADAPT vehicle on a regular basis.

Graveyard Shift was staffed with 7 troopers and 2 sergeants. Trooper Bowers has been temporarily filling in for the PIO. Graveyard handled a total of 45 crashes which is down by 18% over last month, and 10% less than the same period last year. Graveyard handled one alcohol related fatal accident. Graveyard's total enforcement activity was down 2% from the previous month, but up by more than 11% over the same period last year. Graveyard has been conducting special enforcement operations in the construction zones.

## **CARSON/TAHOE/MINDEN**

Total crashes in January decreased by 7.9%, no fatal crashes were reported, injury crashes decreased 29.1% and property damage crashes increased by 4.2% when comparing January of 2006 to January of 2005. Total crashes increased by 2.2% from last month with over 49% of the crashes being weather related this month.

Overall, field enforcement was up 53.9% in January 2006 when compared to January of 2005 and up 25.3% when compared to last month. DUI arrests as a result DUI involved crashes were down 80% compared to last year and were down by 50% from last month. DUI arrests prior to a crash were up by 66.7% compared to last year and up 33.3% compared to last month.

Directed enforcement was scheduled on US Highway 50 in the Moundhouse area and on US 395 in the Indian Hills area, in an attempt to slow down the traffic during the commute period of the day. The district is reporting an exceptional increase in enforcement numbers



and a decrease in severity of crashes. These directed enforcement efforts have been a success and will be continued.

Construction continues on the Carson City Freeway with the predicted opening in late February. This opening will possibly increase the amount of crashes in the area of the new freeway and access ramps. Additional patrol will be directed to those areas.

## ***FERNLEY/FALLON***

The Fallon / Fernley rural district is currently staffed with 16 Troopers and 2 Sergeants. The Fernley area operated this month with 9 Troopers. The reduction in staffing is due to the tragic passing of an officer's family member.

There were 65 crashes occurring within the rural area during the month of January. Winter storms caused 14 weather related crashes that were handled throughout the area. Of the crashes, 6 were vehicle vs. animal. The crash reduction compared to last year is attributed to the schedule change within the rural area. Shifts are now overlapped during high accident times between 1200-1600 hours. The increases in crashes over last month are attributed to the construction on US50 Alternate within the Fernley area construction zone, where 11 crashes occurred. These crashes consisted of 5 property crashes, 5 serious injury crashes and 1 fatal crash. This is not the high crash area within Fernley, but is up 9 crashes as compared to last year within that area.

The fatal crash occurred when a utility vehicle turned eastbound onto US50 Alt. and drove within the westbound lanes. The utility vehicle struck a second vehicle head on, resulting in the death of the wrong way driver. Alcohol is not a factor in the crash.

A serious injury accident occurred when a Q&D Construction worker was struck by a motor vehicle while moving large orange construction barrels. The construction zone, an 8-mile stretch of widening is currently being addressed by a joint effort between the Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Highway Patrol, Q&D Construction and Diversified Consulting Services. Primary issues are the posted speed limit within the constructions zone, and lane striping.

The district Sergeants will continue to monitor crash times, crash areas, and adjust staffing accordingly to decrease carnage on public highways.

The district's productivity decreased slightly over last month, and last year. The decrease is attributed to inclement weather, construction zones, and the severity of crashes increasing investigation time.

## ***COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT***

January is the fourth month of the 2006 Federal Fiscal Year and the first month of the second Federal Fiscal quarter.

The Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will meet or exceed the required goals and objectives as stated in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Plan (CVSP). At the end of January 2006, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section was ahead in its year to date goals in Level I/II/III inspections, Level II/III enforcement inspections, Interstate/Secondary roadway weight enforcement and Compliance reviews.

In January, the Commercial Enforcement Section CVSI's started the spring school bus inspection cycle. The CVSI's will continue to monitor the unacceptable out-of-service rate at the Washoe County School District. In addition, the CVSI's monthly activities included tow truck inspections and Compliance Reviews (CR's).

The Commercial Enforcement Section again assisted the Southern Command in the New Year's Eve enforcement and anti-terrorism program. Twenty personnel from the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section participated in this event.

During the month of January, the North American Standards Part "A" class was held at the Reno NHP office. Five rural traffic troopers from the Northern Command area attended this class. Other agencies represented in this class included the Reno Police Department, Sparks Police Department and Tennessee Highway Patrol.

In January, the Commercial Enforcement Section fixed the electronic component on the Weigh in Motion (WIM) scales. Four check-site operations were conducted that specifically targeted weight enforcement. As a result of these check-site operations, the Northern Command is currently ahead of the projected 2006 Federal Fiscal Year goals.

#### Upcoming Events:

Throughout this fiscal year, the Northern Command Commercial Enforcement Section will continue with the Strike-Force (STEP) efforts in the Southern Command. The Northern Region will send four commercial personnel to Las Vegas in February. The STEP program is designed to reduce commercial motor vehicle accidents in the Las Vegas area.

In February, two Northern Command Commercial personnel will attend the DOE Level VI training in Las Vegas. Fourteen other personnel will attend the General Hazardous Material Training at the Reno office in February.

The two new Northern Command CVSIs will be sent to Compliance Review (CR) training in April.

### AIR OPERATIONS

The landing gear and avionics repairs have been completed on the new aircraft (Air 3) and the plane has been placed into regular service.

Between Air 1 and Air 3, 7 speed enforcement missions were flown and a total of 214 citations were issued. Of 16 scheduled missions, 9 were cancelled; 6 due to bad weather, one for a PSTO meeting and 2 due to the backup pilot going on extended sick leave.

13 in-state prisoner transports were accomplished during the month.

Air 1 flew a total of 24.7 hours during the month, Air 3 flew a total of 23.8 hours. Included in Air 3's total is 1.2 hours of usage by NDOT.

Total Hours Flown	Jan 2006	Jan 2005	Change
Time over sites.....	18.2	6.0	203 %
Time enroute to sites.....	9.0	4.7	91 %
Prisoner Transports.....	(13) 23.8	(3) 9.5	151 %
Property Transports.....	(1) 3.0	-	300 %
Training.....	.8	1.5	- 47 %
Personnel Transport.....	-	(1) 2.2	-100 %
Maintenance.....	2.5		250 %
NDOT use (Air 3).....	1.2	N/A	120 %
Total:	58.5	23.9	145%

Enforcement Missions Flown:	7	2	250 %
Total Enforcement Activity:	214	45	376 %
Activity Per Flight Hour:	11.8	6.9	71 %

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Jan 06	Jan 05	% Change	Dec 05	% Change
<b>FRONT OFFICE</b>					
Accident Reports Processed	578	611	-5.40%	469	+23.24%
Arrest Reports Processed	204	159	+28.30%	168	+21.43%
Incident / Officer Reports Processed	15	9	+66.67%	22	-31.82%
Office Accident Reports Taken	13	48	-72.92%	60	-78.33%
<b>COURT / WARRANT</b>					
Warrants Received	304	470	-35.32%	601	-49.42%
Warrants Entered	66	396	-83.33%	99	-33.33%
Warrants Cleared	453	836	-45.81%	387	+17.05%
Warrants Validated	189	240	-21.25%	163	+15.95%
Citations Processed	4244	2714	+56.37%	3109	+36.51%
<b>COMMUNICATION CENTER</b>					
Radio Transmissions	103624	85642	21%	98661	5%
CAD incidents	12976	8307	56.2%	11935	8.7%

## FRONT OFFICE

Three Administrative Assistant II positions are still currently vacant. One of the past vacancies has been filled by a transfer from the Carson City Parole and Probation office's Fugitive Unit. This is in the Warrants section. The two other positions will have interviews conducted again as the two previous candidates did not pass the background portion of the hiring process.

The Region's film clerk reported an increase of 156% in the number of photos processed since last month.

Overall sick leave decreased this period by 37%, but compensatory leave increased. Annual leave decreased by 22%. With this, overall hours worked decreased by 4%. Overtime has decreased by 9%, despite having the vacancies. Because of the vacant positions and sick leave, overtime is being utilized to complete the five major tasks within this section.

Accident reports processed increased by 23%. Arrest reports also increased by 21%. Incidences decreased by 32%, while office reports decreased this period by 78%. 13 office reports were taken this reporting period.

## **COURT WARRANTS**

Regular citations processed increased by 36.5%. Warrant entry is current through the middle of September. October, November, and December are in arrears for base entry. However, the new person who transferred from P & P is already NCJIS certified, and well versed on the JLCLIENT system. We should begin to see an increase in base warrant entry with this vacancy being filled. The AAI position currently stationed in warrants will continue to serve in that section, but as a trainer to the new AAI transfer. Interviews will be re-conducted in order to fill the second vacant position. Backlogged citations are still being worked on as time permits.

There was a 49% decrease in new warrants received. The main AAI in warrants spent two weeks performing most of the warrant officer duties with the exception of actual transfers while he was on leave. The court warrants officer has been on vacation for two and a half weeks. The AAI performed 10 court runs which included returning 157 served subpoenas. The AAI copied and prepared 107 probable cause sheets for the courts, as well as prepared 48 miscellaneous other forms.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Northern Command Communication center hired two new Public Safety Dispatchers and lost one PSD due to resignation. We currently have one vacant Public Safety Dispatcher I and one PSD IV position remaining. Another position will open due to a transfer on February 1<sup>st</sup>. With 3 personnel actively in training, the Center remains effectively down 5 positions, 6 in February.

Total work hours lost decreased by 36.33% since last month. This was primarily due to a decrease in annual leave, admin leave and leave without pay. It increased by 11.18% from the previous year due to an increase in sick and comp leave.

Compensatory overtime decreased by 16.95% when compared to last month. Overtime as a whole decreased by 48.18% when compared to the same period last year and decreased by 63.20% when compared to last month. The decrease from last year and last month are primarily due to the increased loss of personnel and the end of the holiday season. The coverage of sick leave accounted for 36% of the overtime, followed by 29% for vacant positions and 25% for annual leave.

Radio transmissions increased by 21% over this period last year and 5% since last month. CAD incidents have increased by 56.2% over last year and 8.7% since last month. The primary reason for the increase in transmissions is likely due to the new arrival of field personnel as well as increased radio use by allied agencies. The increase in incidents is primarily due to the increase in population reporting more and more information to DPS.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR**

During the month of January there were approximately ten press releases related to accidents. There were also numerous phone interviews. The majority of which were on Cub Country 94.5. This is a reoccurring interview taking place Tuesday through Friday at 0600 and 0830. Several taped interviews with News Radio 780 KOH were done.

There were a number of live television interviews with News Channel Eight and a taped interview with Channel Eight and Channel Four.

A speech was given at a Sparks Rotary Club meeting at the Nugget. It was a crowd of approximately 100 people. The topic of discussion was that of DUI enforcement and use of the DUI simulator for education purposes.



The PIO attended the Wal-Mart Grand Opening where he received a \$1,000.00 ceremonial Grant Check made out to the Nevada Highway Patrol. The real check will be picked up on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

A project for the Reno Gazette was completed where they requested accident numbers in the spaghetti bowl area from the beginning of the construction work until present.

Trp. Eddie Bowers continues to fill in for Trp. Chuck Allen without missing a beat.

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